

## Berkshire Backyard Beekeepers

Tuesday, September 11, 2018 - Berkshire Botanical Garden

### Upcoming beekeeping workshops and events:

- October 13th, 10am-noon – Winter Preparations at State Apiary, UMass Agricultural Learning Center (ALC) Farm 911 North Pleasant St. Amherst
- November 1 at 7pm: Dewey Caron will be speaking at Williams College Lawrence Hall room 231. Sponsored by NBBA, BCBC, and Williams College. Free and open to the public.

### September beekeeping activities:

- Monitor for pests/diseases: treat as necessary; last chance for formic acid. Consider scheduling a apiary inspection through MDAR.
- Ensure the queen has enough room to lay. The bees hatching now will begin to make up the winter cluster. Ideally you should see 7-8 full frames (both sides) of brood. Requeening might be necessary if a queen is failing to lay enough eggs.
- Harvest honey or store full frames, especially if brood space is taken up by honey. This honey can be refeed later in the fall rather than sugar syrup. Feeding can wait until late October or November.
- Check for swarming (probably too late to use a found swarm).
- Combine weak hives with strong hives.

**Select Notable Nectar Sources in September:** goldenrod (*Solidago spp.*), asters (*Symphyotrichum spp.*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), various clovers (*Trifolium spp.*), sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*)

**Group website:** [berkshirebotanical.org/berkshire-backyard-beekeepers](http://berkshirebotanical.org/berkshire-backyard-beekeepers)

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, October 9 at 6pm